

THE MAXX

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COMICS PRESENTS

THE MAXXTM

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THREE WHOLE WEEKS
OF DIETING... COT-
TAGE CHEESE AND
FRUIT PLATES AND
YOGURT...

...AND SHE'S
GAINED FIVE
POUNDS?

Oh...
POOP!

MAYBE THERE WAS SOME-
THING IN THE FRIDGE,
SOMETHING UNFATTEN-
ING... SOMETHING NICE...

MEEP!

Snatchh!

MEEP

MEEP

MEEP

MEEP

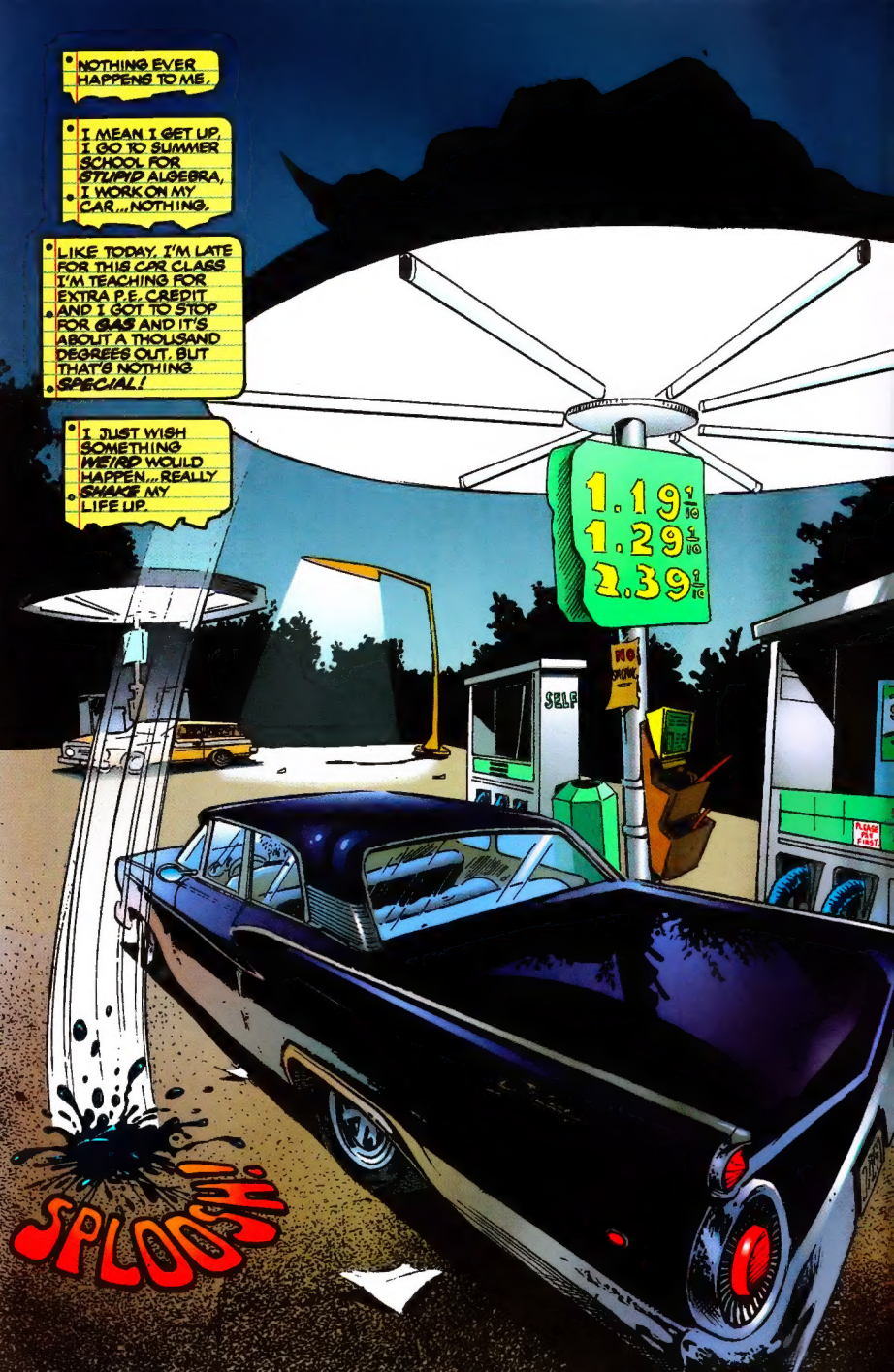
MEEP

• NOTHING EVER
HAPPENS TO ME.

• I MEAN I GET UP,
I GO TO SUMMER
SCHOOL FOR
STUPID ALGEBRA,
• I WORK ON MY
CAR... NOTHING.

• LIKE TODAY, I'M LATE
FOR THIS CAR CLASS
I'M TEACHING FOR
EXTRA P.E. CREDIT
AND I GOT TO STOP
FOR GAS AND IT'S
ABOUT A THOUSAND
DEGREES OUT, BUT
THAT'S NOTHING
• SPECIAL!

• I JUST WISH
SOMETHING
WEIRD WOULD
HAPPEN... REALLY
• SHAKE MY
LIFE UP.



1.19 ¹/₁₆
1.29 ¹/₁₆
2.39 ⁹/₁₆

SELF

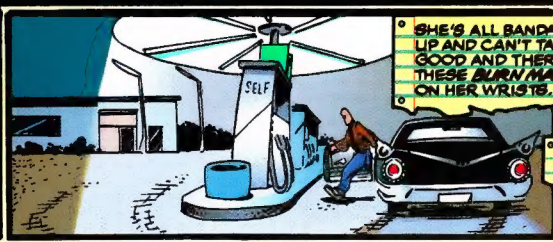
NO
PUMP

ROAD
AID
FIRST

SPLASH!

NOT LIKE WHAT HAPPENED TO GLORIE, OF COURSE.

I WENT TO SEE HER AT THE HOSPITAL A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO. THAT WAS KIND OF GROSS.



SHE'S ALL BANDAGED UP AND CAN'T TALK GOOD AND THERE'S THESE BURN MARKS ON HER WRISTS.

MADE ME FEEL BAD.



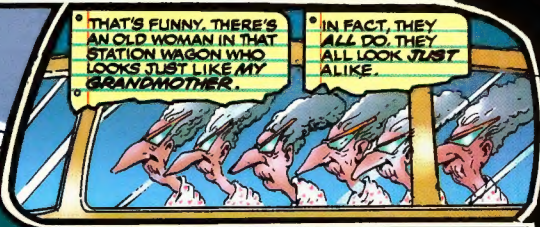
SHE SAID THEY THINK THEY CAN SAVE HER FINGERS.

MY DAD SAYS IT HAPPENED CAUSE SHE WAS A TRAMP. BUT I DON'T THINK SO.

THINGS JUST HAPPEN IS ALL, BUT NOT TO ME.

THAT'S FUNNY. THERE'S AN OLD WOMAN IN THAT STATION WAGON WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE MY GRANDMOTHER.

IN FACT, THEY ALL DO. THEY ALL LOOK JUST ALIKE.



HLUH.

AND THERE'S A BLACK TARP OVER THE STATION.



I NEVER NOTICED THAT.

IT ALMOST LOOKS ALIVE!



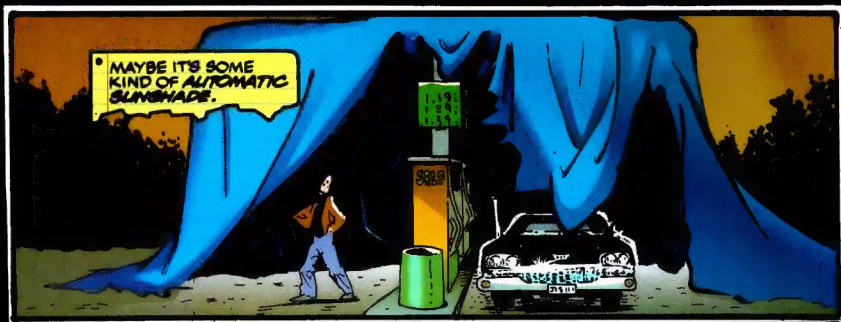
AND IT'S SLIPPING DOWN, COVERING THE STATION....



SHOWER GAS! TRY IT TODAY!

WEIRD.



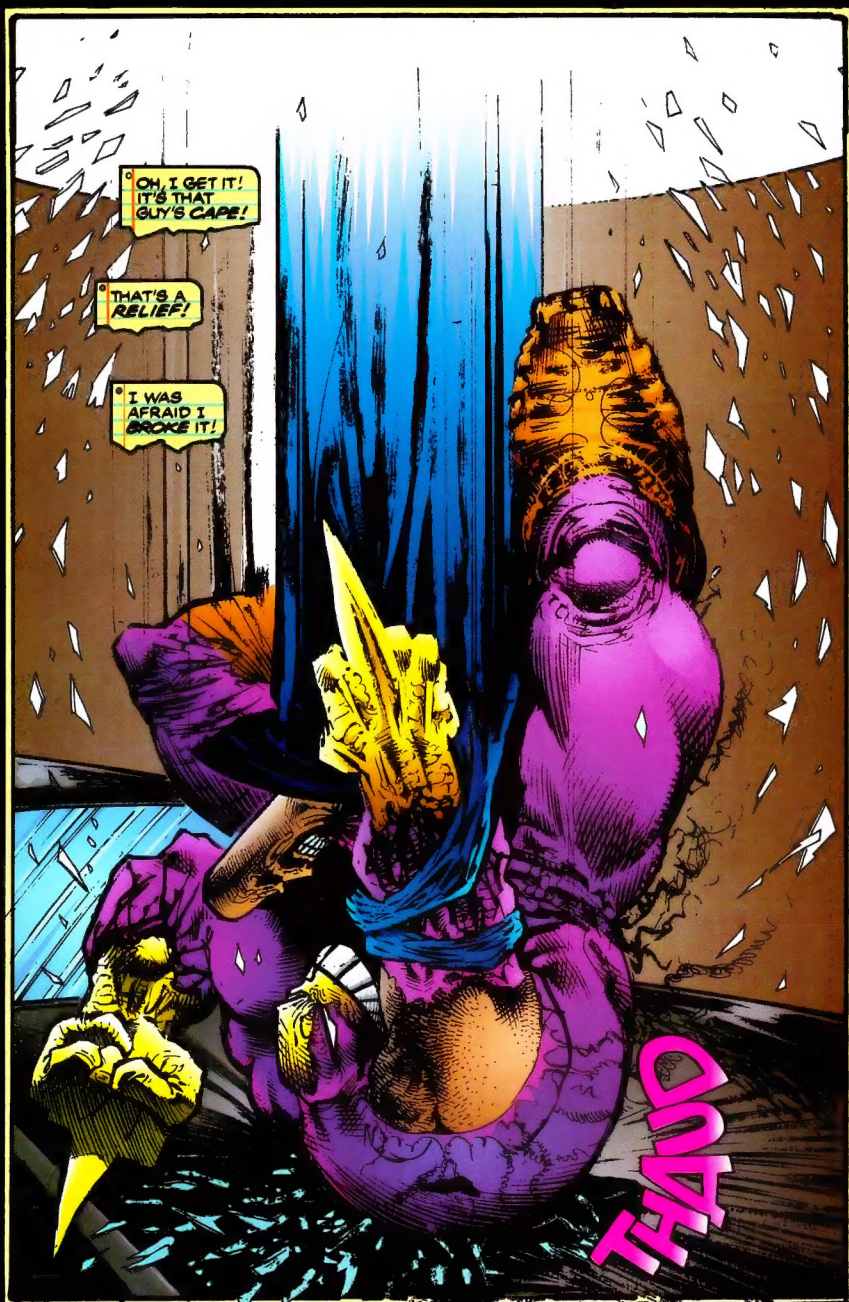


OH, I GET IT!
IT'S THAT
GUY'S CAPE!

THAT'S A
RELIEF!

I WAS
AFRAID I
BROKE IT!

DUHH



COURSE, NOW I GOT TWO
BIG GUYS, FIGHTING, ON
THE HOOD OF MY CAR.

GIVE IT UP,
BROTHER LAPPIN!
YOU...GASP...KNEW
JULIE WINTERS
IS THE ONE I WANT!
SHE'S...WHEREZ...
THE STRONG
ONE...

THE ONE
WHO PULLS
...HANT...
YOUR
STRINGS!

UHHH...
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

IT'S KIND
OF MEAT,
ACTUALLY.

AND WHO
THE HELL
ARE
YOU?

HUNT!



YOU REALLY
DON'T REMEMBER
ANYTHING
IMPORTANT, DO
YOU, BR'ER
LAPPIN'?

HEY!
PUT THAT
DOWN, OR
I'LL—

I'M MR.
GONE!... A
STUDENT OF
THE MYSTIC
ARTS!

UNFORTUNATELY,
AN UNTALENTED
STUDENT, OR I
WOULDN'T HAVE
TO KEEP
SHOOTING
FOOLS LIKE
YOU!



KRATCH!!!

I THOUGHT
I SAW A WOMAN
IN THERE!

NOW
SURRENDER,
HOPPING-BOY,
OR THIS CHARMING
YOUNG CHIPPY
IS ADDED TO
MY SCORE!

CRUNCH

MY
HOSTAGE.
YOU KILLED
MY HOSTAGE!

YOU K!
ILLED MY H
OSTAGE YOU K
ILLED MY HOS
TAGE YOU KIL
LED



NEVER
DO THAT
AGAIN!

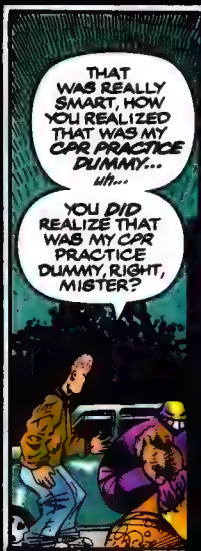
OUCHIE.



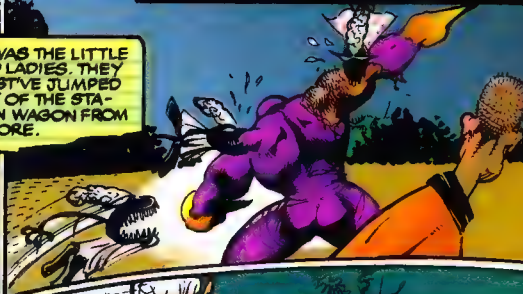
BROTHER,
NOTHING'S
EASY.

UMM...DO
YOU WANT ME
TO CALL FOR AN
AMBULANCE OR
SOMETHING?





IT WAS THE LITTLE OLD LADIES. THEY MUST'VE JUMPED OUT OF THE STATION WAGON FROM BEFORE.



I WAS STARTING TO THINK IT WAS GETTING PRETTY HAZARDOUS AROUND HERE.



I GUESS HE'S
THE SORT OF GUY
THINGS HAPPEN
TO ALL THE TIME.

YAAAAA!

TOO...
MANY...
CAN'T FIGHT
THEM ALL...

BLACKING
OUT... LOST TOO
MUCH BLOOD...
PAIN... HAVE TO
FIND... JULIA...

IT
GETS
DATE WITH
AN ANGEL...
!

AH-
HA!

AND THAT
SHOULD
COVER YOU
NICELY.

AFTER ALL,
WE DON'T WANT
THE LOCALS
SEEING GRANNIES
CLIPPED TO TRASH
BINS BY THEIR
TEETH...

THERE!

ESCAPED!

IT FEELS
GOOD TO RUN
AND LEAP
AGAIN!

TO FEEL
THE SOFT
LOAM
UNDER MY
HEELS!

BAD
DOLL..

EVEN HER VOICE
IS DIFFERENT.

WHAT HAS
HAPPENED
TO HER?

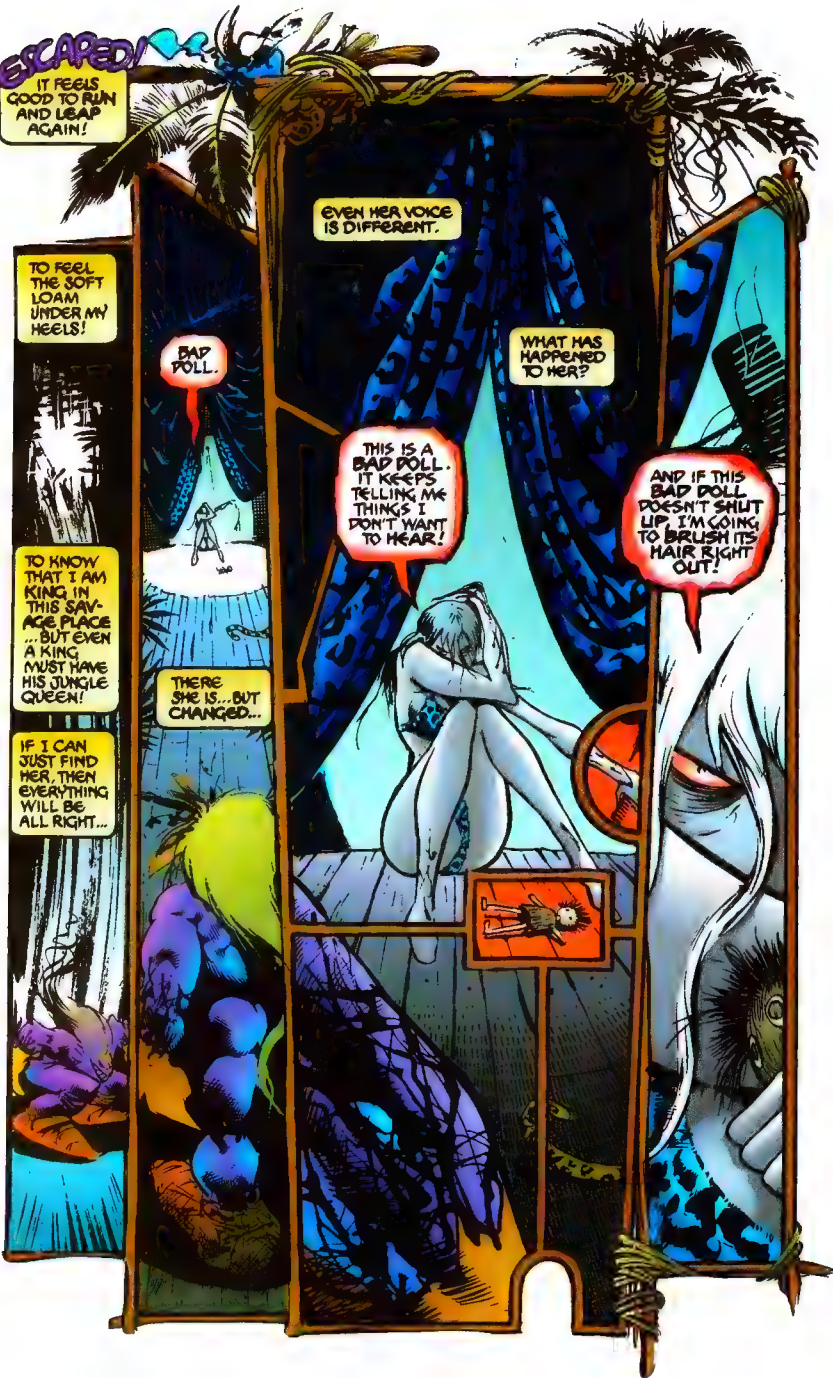
THIS IS A
BAD DOLL..
IT KEEPS
TELLING ME
THINGS I
DON'T WANT
TO HEAR!

AND IF THIS
BAD DOLL
DOESN'T SHUT
UP, I'M GOING
TO BRUSH ITS
HAIR RIGHT
OUT!

TO KNOW
THAT I AM
KING IN
THIS SAV-
AGE PLACE
... BUT EVEN
A KING
MUST HAVE
HIS JUNGLE
QUEEN!

THERE
SHE IS... BUT
CHANGED...

IF I CAN
JUST FIND
HER, THEN
EVERYTHING
WILL BE
ALL RIGHT...



ELSEWHERE, ON THE PASTEL, DECAYING, ART DECO SIDE OF TOWN...

I KILLED HIM, OF COURSE. SHOT HIM AND LOCKED HIM IN A DUMPSTER WITH A HANDFUL OF THE DARK !SES. THEY TURN MEAT-EATERS WHEN YOU BRING THEM OVER. DID YOU KNOW THAT?

I RAN INTO YOUR FRIEND MAXX TODAY, JULIE.

HE STILL HASN'T GOT A CLUE THAT YOU'RE THE KEY TO ALL THIS. HE THINKS HE'S SOME KIND OF SUPERHERO IN THIS WORLD. CAN YOU IMAGINE?

POP

POP

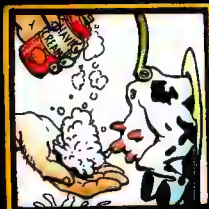
POP

AHHH... LIFE IS GREAT!

THE !SBS
ARE PRETTY
INTERESTING...



DID YOU
KNOW THAT TO
HUMANS THEY
APPEAR AS
WHATEVER YOU
DRESS THEM
AS?



THAT'S WHY
I SET UP SHOP
IN THIS OLD
COSTUME
WAREHOUSE...
PRETTY
CLEVER, EH?

OF COURSE,
THE BULLDOG
JAR RUBBER
FACTORY
UPSTAIRS STILL
SMELLS OF
DECAYING
RUBBER...



BUT I
THINK THAT
JUST ADDS
TO THE
AMBIENCE,
DON'T YOU?

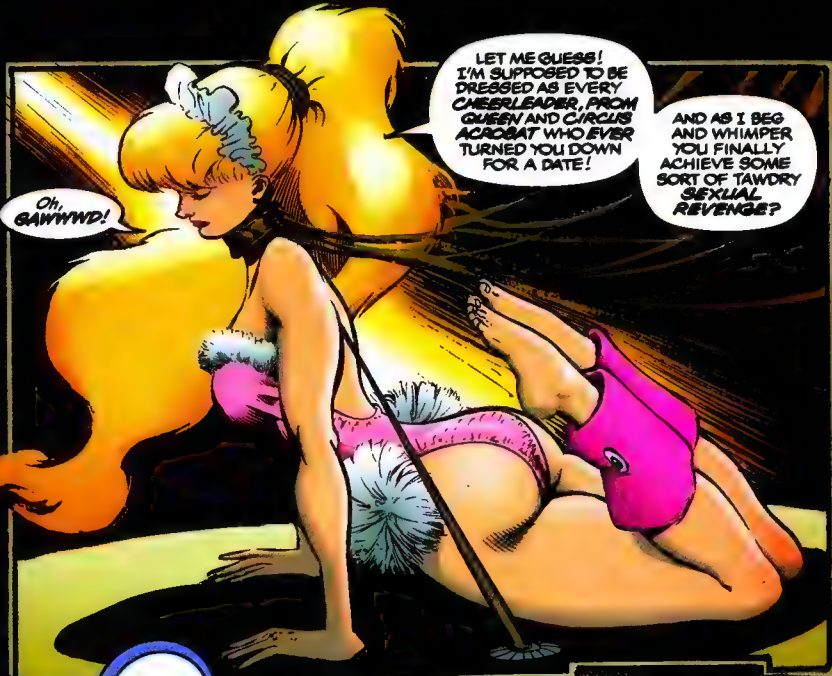


NET THAT
YOU'RE IN ANY
POSITION TO
COMPLAIN...



IN FACT,
I CAN DO
ANYTHING
TO YOU I
WANT...





OH,
GAWWWD!

LET ME GUESS!
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE
DRESSED AS EVERY
CAREERLEADER, FROM
QUEEN AND CIRCUS
ACROBAT WHO EVER
TURNED YOU DOWN
FOR A DATE!

AND AS I BEG
AND WHIMPER
YOU FINALLY
ACHIEVE SOME
SORT OF TAWDRY
SEXUAL
REVENGE?



WELL, SO
MUCH FOR
THAT
PLAN!

MEED!
MEED!

IF
ALL THIS
BAROQUE
POSTUR-
ING IS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
THREAT-
ENING
ME, IT'S
PRETTY
LAME-O.

I MEAN,
YOU CAN
KILL ME,
SURE...

SO CAN EVERY
CRACKHEAD ON
MY BLOCK...BUT
YOU SURE AREN'T
SCARING ME!

A TOOTH...
FROM ONE OF
THOSE LITTLE
MONSTERS
HE KEEPS
AROUND...
MUST BE
SHARP!



SHUT
UP!

I'M
TRYING
TO
THINK!



NOW WHERE
WAS I?

OH, YES.
PLAN
TWO!





YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW YOU? I'VE STALKED YOU!

SO? YOU SEE ME AS SOME LITTLE MISS PERFECT... SOME MADONNA TO BE SEDUCED AND ABSORBED!

ACTUALLY, I'M PRETTY FLAWED. I'VE GOT A FAT STOMACH AND CHAFF MARKS WHERE MY JEANS CUT IN AND BAD BREATH FROM EATING THE WRONG STUFF! AND MY UNDERARMS ARE STUBBLY!

BUT I CAN SEE THROUGH YOU LIKE GLASS, PAL!

YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH WOMEN!





HOW
PERCEPTIVE!
DID YOU FIGURE
THAT OUT WHEN
I KIDNAPPED
YOU...OR WHEN
I TIED YOU UP
WITH LEATHER
STRAPS?

OF
COURSE
I'VE GOT
A PROBLEM
WITH
WOMEN!

EVERYONE
HAS A PROBLEM
WITH WOMEN...
BECAUSE WOMEN
TAUNT AND TEASE!
BECAUSE THEY ARE
ATTRACTIVE AND
THEN THEY PUNISH
YOU FOR BEING
ATTRACTED!

DO YOU
DENY IT?
AFTER ALL, I'M
NOT THE ONE
WHO WEARS
UNDERWEAR
OUTSIDE HER
CLOTHES!

YOU CLAIM
TO BE A "PRE-SEX
FEMINIST"! YOU
QUOTE CAMILLE
PAGLIA... ENDLESSLY,
I MIGHT ADD.

BUT WOULD A
FEMINIST OF ANY
STRIBE BE SO
DELIBERATELY
RISK-TAKING? OR
ARE YOU ONLY A
FEMINIST WHEN
IT SUITS YOU?

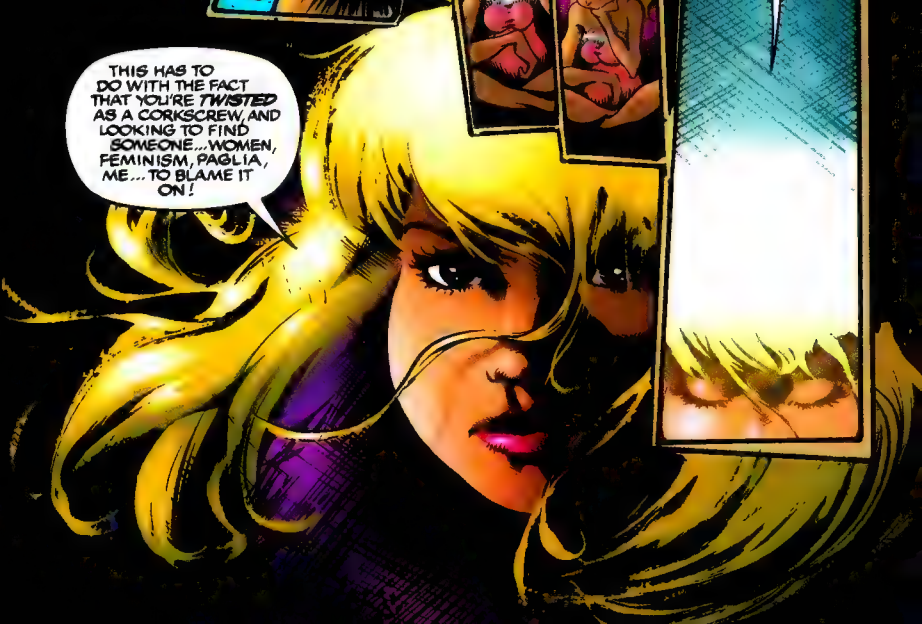
YOU DROPPED OUT
OF COLLEGE, SET UP THIS
"FREE-LANCE SOCIAL
WORK" OF YOURS, STARTED
BAILING PEOPLE OUT OF
JAIL, TRYING TO REFORM
THEM...

YOU'RE
NEARLY BROKE
SURROUNDED BY
DANGEROUS,
DESPERATE
MEN... AND LOOK
WHERE IT'S
GOTTEN YOU!

SO THIS
IS MY
FAULT?

YOU BROKE
INTO MY LOCKED
HOUSE AND
KIDNAPPED ME!
THIS HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH THE
CLOTHES I
WEAR!

THIS HAS TO
DO WITH THE FACT
THAT YOU'RE **TWISTED**
AS A CORKSCREW, AND
LOOKING TO FIND
SOMEONE... WOMEN,
FEMINISM, PAGLIA,
ME... TO BLAME IT
ON!



SURE I TEST
THE LIMITS...SO
WHAT? QUIT WHIN-
ING LIKE A BROKEN
DOLL AND GET ON
WITH IT!

ARE YOU
SURE THAT'S WHAT
YOU WANT? I CAN
TELL YOU THINGS,
JULIE WINTERS,
THINGS YOU'VE
TRIED TO
FORGET.

THINGS ABOUT ME,
YOURSELF...EVEN THE
MAXX. THIS WHOLE
ELABORATE FICTION
YOU'VE BUILT UP TO
PROTECT YOURSELF
FROM THE TRUTH.

THIS DOLL IS
TELLING ME
THINGS I DON'T
WANT TO HEAR!
AND IF IT
DOESN'T
SHUT UP...

DO YOU
REMEMBER
SP!R!T
AN!M!S,
JULIE? DO YOU
REMEMBER...?

...I'M GONNA
BRUSH ITS
HEAD RIGHT
OFF!

...GETTING YOUR
OWN SP!R!T
ANIMAL? DO YOU
REMEMBER WHERE
YOU WERE? WHAT
IT LOOKED LIKE?

AND
WHAT THE
AN!M!S
NAME
WAS?

IF THIS
DOLL
DOESN'T
SHUT
UP...!



...I'M GONNA
BRUSH AND
BRUSH AND
BRUSH...

YOU WERE NEVER
ABLE TO ACCEPT THE
OTHER PLANE, JULIE...
NEVER ABLE TO REVEL IN
IT LIKE I AM... INSTEAD
YOU HIDE IN THIS FANTASY!
'REMEMBER, JULIE?
'IT'S...

UNTIL I
BRUSH OFF
IT'S...

...ALL IN
YOUR...



DEAD.

I AWOKED FROM
THE DAYDREAM
OF THE WILD
PLACES AND
TEETH WERE AT
MY THROAT!

SO I AWOKED AND
SLEW. BUT JULIE
IS STILL KIDNAPPED
AND THE JUNGLE
QUEEN IS INSANE!

I DIDN'T
PROTECT
EITHER OF
THEM. I
FAILED.

I WISH IT WAS TIME
FOR CHEERS, BUT
IT'S NOT. IT'S TIME
FOR VENGEANCE!

NEXT MONTH
JUNGLE FLOWERS GROWN IN
BLOOD!



HEY, MAXX-HEADS! Sam here...Listen up!! You can stop with the column name ideas — the winner is...TY KELLER! with — well, just look above! A lot of people mentioned "Maxx Traxx", but he was the first. So one copy of a Glowing Maxx #1 is in the mail, along with a pin-up of The Hulk. (I know, I know, this is the Maxx, but I just wanted to draw The Hulk today. Marvel won't mind, as long as we don't print it here...)

Everyone's asking for glow-in-the-dark Maxxes, but I'm fresh out — remember, Ty Keller's got my copy. Your best bet is to hit up your local comic shop owner.

Couple more things, Reuben Rude's name was left on the credits to Maxx #1 instead of off, and Kevin Cunningham's name was left off instead of on. Oops. Also, a couple people asked if I'm selling original art. Thanks, but I'm holding onto it for now.

Anyway, here's some stuff that people wrote:



Probably the best Maxx drawing that I have ever seen. - Sam

Sam,
Does The Maxx ever stand up straight?
Dan Beckwith
Kent, Ohio

No.

Sam,
1. Was The Incredible Hulk #368 your first time working with Marvel Comics?
2. Will the Maxx ever fight Pitt?
John Wolfe
Hawthorne, New Jersey

1. Yup.
2. I hope not — Pitt would probably kill him.

Sam,
You should name your letter column "Bill", "the reply", or "far". It should definitely be a verb like eat or slurp. In general, there are far too few letter columns named after verbs (as well as names). Reading The Maxx made me happy. I was absorbed by your stylistic sense of visual movement like that of a movie. At the end, I [finger hurts] was left wanting more, and I hope you keep [gotta call Scott] with your pledge that the Maxx will come [I wonder if he reads this] out when you say it will. The dialogue was fantastic, it was completely quirky and full of life. I look forward [gotta clean the pad before everyone comes over tonight] to future issues. [Oh Crap! I was writing out loud!]

John Curtis
Oak Park, Illinois

Sam,
I really loved Maxx #1. It had the most coolest drawings. I like looking at ugly super-heroes all the time.

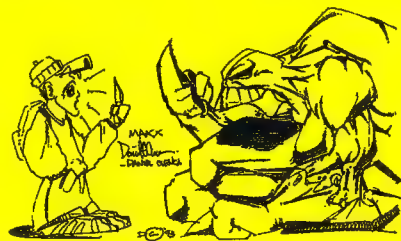
Vincent Marquez
San Diego, California

You want ugly art? You came to the right place! You ain't ever gonna get uglier than The Maxx.

Sam,
Damn! You guys kicked some booth with The Maxx. Nothin' can touch the story line or the art. The story is awesome, it brings reality and imagination into one — THE MAXX.

Gregory O.
Northridge, California

Hey Sam,
I just bought your comic, The Maxx and I want to say it's one of the better Image comics that I have. The way you draw, your people have sort of a



uniqueness to them. Personally, I like the bellbottoms because I'm sort of into that 14-year-old hippie stage.

[Name withheld]

Thanx — a lot of older folks don't dig bellbottoms, but I don't care. To me, they're so uncool, they're cool!

Sam,

Greetings and Salutations! Congratulations on your new book! As soon as I heard your book was out, I ran to my nearest comic shop, bust down their door, pushed aside all of the nosepickin' vacant-eyed, gaping mouthed speculator-collectors and grabbed a copy. As I feverishly fumbled my way through the pages, devouring the artwork, I noticed something. THE COLOR IS AMAZING!!! My highest possible commendation to Steve Oliff and Olyoptics.

I believe that in the past your art has been restrained by poor production qualities. I think that this book will be a stage for the masses to watch a great artist evolve into a better picture artist. But enough about the artwork — it's good too!!! The twelve page fight scenes, the long-winded speeches concerning origin, just a guy who lives in a Maxx and happens to be purple and hairy and have one hell of an overbite.

Phlem Master Weenie

AKA The Grendel Khan

AKA Charles B. Roberson III

P.S. I still don't like bellbottoms.

P.S. I still don't care.

Dear Sam Kleib,

I'm not going to tell you I'm a big fan of comic books. My boyfriend is a big fan and collector and he always lets me read his comic books. I always give them back to him and tell him they suck. Except for The Maxx book. I read it and thought it was great. So great in fact, that I'm going to start collecting Maxx books and items. The graphics are incredible and the writing is terrific.

Thanks,

Kamilah Boddie

Sacramento, California

Sam,

Finally a hero that is more realistic! The Maxx's home is great, The Maxx's face is great, and the The Maxx's feet are great. But one thing...bellbottoms!!! (Please stop!) The Maxx surprised me, I thought that he would be some great hero with great superpowers. Instead I get a bum from the alley with an ugly face and BIG FEET!! I LOVE IT! KEEP IT UP.

Ajax

Bronx, New York

But wait — you like all the other unfashionable parts of The Maxx — bum, alley, ugly face, and big feet. We'll keep bellbottoms as long as they're unfashionable! OK?

Sam,

1. Could The Maxx's alter ego, Bri'er Lappin, possibly be a reference to Bri'er Rabbit of Disney fame?

2. How would I go about getting a Maxx in-the-dark edition of The Maxx?

3. Just exactly who is the Maxx's secret love? Our faithful fan, Mark Elder?

Mark Elder

Allstown, New Jersey

1. Possibly.

2. He's a lot of money or he's good pals with a money stake owner, or both.

3. He's not, he's very funny.

ie: Sam

What happened to Maxx's hair? (Kind of like Neo, with his long mane in his dream sequence). Did someone scalp him or is his hair under his costume?

2. What's with Australia? Is he a mutant Australian? origigne?

3. Why the hobb? (Don't get me wrong, Mike

Frank Russo

Woodslee, New York

4. That's not true, he's not a straw man. In the real world, his hair is short.

2. O.K.

3. I like her too — that's why he likes

Dear Mr. Maxx,

I have questions!!

1. Is Maxx able to leap over small buildings in a single bound?

2. Is he faster than a speeding bullet?

3. Is he stronger than a runaway locomotive?

4. Isn't it true that Maxx is actually Superman attempting to lay low for a while after his death, in an elaborate scheme to cheat the life insurance company? Keep doodlin' those feet!!

"Just for Kicks"

Jeff Watson

Wasilla, Alaska

1. No.

2. No.

3. No.

4. Maybe... (Another foot one! What is it with these guys and feet?)

Sam,
I really like your work..I just have one question for you: When The Maxx goes to sleep, why does he go to Australia and grow hair and feathers?

Thank you,
Casey Hendley
Melbourne, Florida

Another hair one! That's NOT his hair, OK? OK?
Geezzz!!



Sam,
Man oh man, you guys at Image can sure pack a wallop! Jus' picked up Maxx #1, it's all I've wanted and more, as are all the titles in the Image line. The babe is hot, Maxx is wild and the story

seems wide open. I can't wait to see where you're taking us next. Keep it coming Man, it's hot, Hot, Hot. Jus' to let you know, you guys are kicking Marvel's @X&!!

Dan B...
Boca Raton, Florida

I guess I can't say anything politically correct here about how the Maxx is a blend between Marvel and Image, but I don't think anyone's saying that do they, are they?

Dear Sam,
Keep on doing the good job. I really like the style on Julie Winters with the bellbottoms. Next time have her with a tie-dye shirt on.
Jared Bautista
Stockton, California

Hey, you know, I love the Maxx's bell-bottom head. Yes, yes.

- Sam,
1. Why are Maxx's teeth shaped so funny?
 2. Is that his costume?
 3. How come Maxx #1 came out before Darker Image?
 4. Does Maxx have any superpowers?

Your fan,
Eugene Wang
Fanwood, New Jersey

1. 'Cause they're easier to draw that way.
2. Yes. Subtle, huh? Purple tights blend right in with the crowd. (That's why Julie gave him a raincoat in #1.)
3. Because we screwed up. Don't worry — the stories in Darker Image are not directly connected to Maxx #1. And if we did our job

right, they can be read in any order...

4. If you count that his mask feeds off of his face. And the claws! Other than that, he's an average guy.

Sam,

1. Does The Maxx have lips?
2. What, or who, is making that "chung" sound? What does it signify?
3. Any cross-overs or "guests" lined up?
4. How big is The Maxx (height, weight)?

Alex Hunter
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

1. No. And I can't believe you just asked.
2. "Chung" means Maxx has a headache.
3. The Dragon shows up in a couple of pages, and maybe something else...
4. Height: short. Weight: heavy.

Hey Sam,

1. Where the hell can I obtain a Comics "Primer" #5 with The Maxx's first appearance? Do they even exist? (Not in Arizona, they don't.)
2. Is that Maxx's teeth or a mask — Geezz?

Pompeo, Balbo
Scottsdale, Arizona

1. I don't know...they're pretty rare. I think there's about 4-5,000 out there. I would ask dealers at conventions or check back-issue bins at stores with used comics.
2. It's the mask's "teeth", Pomp.

Sam,

Are we ever going to see The Maxx's face without the mask over it?

Scott Kimbrough
Austin, Texas

I haven't decided yet. What do you guys think — should we never see Maxx's face?

Dear Sam and Bill,

I feel as if I have befriended the two of you over the past four years. If you think I'm talking Epicurus the Sage, you're absolutely right! The only reason I'm writing this letter is that if it gets printed, it might prompt others to throttle their store-owners until they get a copy.

Epicurus the Sage is one of the most amusing, canny, cool, crazy, funny, realistic, education (Hey! Remember it's cool too), dynamic, sexual (that should make the adult fans buy it), and reasonable satire of Greek philosophers ever made...Loeb's and Kieth created an environment that clearly displays the ideas of Socrates, Plato and other Greek greats. For those in high school, they make great cliff-notes

for a Greek history class. Kieth's art jumps off the page; each panel and character demonstrates his appreciation for detail and individuality. Loeb's writing kicks tail.

Why am I writing about Epicurus? Because The Maxx is just as good! Dammit! Let's look at issue #1. The standard fantastic job Image and Olyoptics does with the colors is evident. From the blood on the cover to the solid gold "M" on page one, the hues capture and enchant the eye. Hell, they make the dirty alley look like a dirty alley! Mike Heisler's lettering warps your mind as you read. His choice of bold-face allows us to hear the voices of the characters. Damn! Maybe he thinks his job is more than rote copying. The grass in the captions are cool, too.



Loeb's, you know you're good. I don't know what to say about the dialogue you weave beyond; it's real as can be. (Did you come up with the Cheers reference on page #1? It reads like you.)

Kieth, page ten puts the last hundred issues of X-men to shame. This book embodies everything unique in your style. Your quirky paneling never seems to confuse the reader. There's nothing left to be said about your big feet. You know what I mean. The art is fluid and pulsing. This one's the winner.

To answer your question, I read the licensing label on the inside cover because I was reeeeee bored.

Once again, both of you deserve all of the acclaim you're receiving. I can't wait for The Maxx's tale to unfold.

Eager for another four years,
Mike Rubin
Morristown, New Jersey

Wow.

Sam,
Who's the dude with the cape?
Christopher Shea
Worcester, Massachusetts

Mr. Gone! But by now you already know that...

Dear Sam,

1. Where does Maxx come from?
2. Who is Mr. Gone and how does he know Maxx?
3. What's with the obscene phone calls that Julia has been getting?
4. Speaking of Julia, what's her problem any way? Why is she so cold?
5. What's an Isz?
6. Are you ever gonna take off the Maxx's mask?
7. Is it just me or is Maxx giving everyone the finger?
8. Are those claws?
9. If so, could they cut through anything?
10. Will The Maxx and Julia ever get together?
Until The Maxx stands straight, make mine Image!

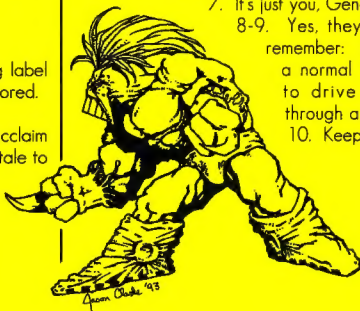
Gene Brice
Brooklyn, New York

1. Keep reading.
2. Maxx's arch rival. Gone is the only one who can travel freely between both worlds, and he is the only one who doesn't forget the real world when he enters the outback.
3. Mr. Gone is a bit socially dysfunctional, but he's working on it.
4. This issue should explain that Julie's got many things buried inside that make her appear cold.
5. Good question. This issue has half the answer, and the next issue has the other half! By the way, one "Is" is an "Is", and two of 'em make "Isz" (pronounced "iss-uss").
6. That could be tricky, since the mask is alive and tends to eat off the fingers of anyone who tries to remove it? Also, there's those nasty dreams Maxx keeps having, that he's something other than normal under there.

7. It's just you, Gene.

8-9. Yes, they're claws, but remember: Maxx only has a normal man's strength to drive those claws through anything.

10. Keep on reading...



Dear Sam Kieth,
Your comic, Maxx, is one of the best that I have ever seen. The story is great and the art is totally cool...I'm very glad that you decided to name your book after my dog. He loves to read your comic. In fact, he has his own copy ever since he stepped on mine and ripped the cover off. I guess I'll leave you alone so you can keep up the most eexxcceellleent work.

Sam's #1 (approx.) Fan,
Dan Marcus
Niles, Illinois

P.S. Can you tell me how I could get one or two of your ashcan books?

P.P.S. My dog says "Ruff Ruff Grrrr, Bark."



Unless we blew it, there should be an ad for them in this issue. Otherwise, send requests to Bowe and Board, 9180 East Indian Bend Road, F10, Scottsdale, Arizona 85250.

Dear Sam,
Is it just me or is the similarity between The Leopard Queen and Julie Winters something else?
Andy Hsu
Providence, Rhode Island

No, Andy, it's not just you! The Jungle Queen and Julie are the same person! When we see the modern world, that's through Julie's eyes, and the outback is through Maxx's eyes. Also, there's only one Maxx. I know - it's confusing, but it gets clearer...I think...

Dear Sam,
Maxx is awesome! I loved the stories in Darker Image and The Maxx and the art is incredible. I can't compare this book to any other that I've read! It's so weird, I love it! The social worker is hot as balls! (Can I say that?) The colors in this comic are excellent. I read your interview in Wizard 20. MAN! When you say you'll draw big feet, you really draw big feet! I also read that the dude with the cape is called Mr. Gone. That guy is wicked! (He looks like a totem-pole with a cape!) This comic is really original, and in case I didn't explain it in the above context, I'm very impressed!

Matt Mahan
Arcadia, Oklahoma

TOTEM-POLE?

Dear Sam,
I just finished reading The Maxx #1 and I must say that now that you're doing your own book, you have definitely redefined the darker and more gruesome comic character...Compliment Bill on his great dialogue job; he added all the right phrases at all the right times.

David Bird
Fredericksburg, Virginia

AMEN.

Dear Sam,
Wow, Wow, WOW! What an awesome work of art. Maxx is one of the best comics I have ever read. Hey Kieth, are you really human? "Cause there ain't no way a regular guy can accomplish what you've achieved in Maxx #1. It blows all the other comics out of the water.

Maxx is not your everyday bland superhero, but a guy with a ferocity of emotions. It is intense how you delve into the psychology of the guy. And let me tell you, a lot of comics try to develop their characters that way, but they don't compare to The Maxx.

Finally we have a comic with awesome artwork and a great story line to go with it. Hey, make mine Maxx any and every time, baby!

Your devoted Fan For Life,

Johny O.
Northridge,
California



Dear Sam,
Being the old fashioned sort whose preferred reading includes old farts like Peter Bagge, the Hernandez Brothers and Chester Brown, I feel a bit out of my league commenting on these new-fangled action comics. There's so much byzantine intensity in the layouts - I keep flipping through the book try-

ing to figure out if those odd-shaped panels spell out secret messages or not. "Buy More Tang" maybe?

Everything looks so cool and groovy. You've done an excellent job of establishing your hero's presence, if nothing else - this great curled up shape, powerful but slumbering...Not having seen any previous appearances of The Maxx, I have no idea whether there's a normal human inside the suit.

I get the impression he's an alien brought to this dimension, but he also seems to have a lot of characteristics of an earth elemental, even his muttering (which is great, by the way - the last line of the book actually made me laugh out loud, quite a feat considering that I'd spent the previous two hours putting together a chest of drawers and smashing my thumbs to atoms with a hammer.)

Okay, on to the woman. If you hadn't mentioned it, I doubt that I'd pick up on the Camille Paglia thing...the Frazetta thing I got. But the Paglia was more oblique. Coincidentally, I just got the new Vanity Fair and was reading the cover story on Sharon Stone. It seems both Paglia and Naomi Wolfe (author of *The Beauty Myth*) loved Stone in *Basic Instinct* (which I've yet to see), since she isn't afraid to use the power of her sexuality. Judy seems to fit into the same mold, although just why she dresses like a hooker, and then denies it is still unexplained. So far, all we know is that she dresses in body conscious clothing, and thinks that women get raped we're "asking for it" through their stupid behavior. I take it that in Judy's world, the defini-

tion of "asking for it" does not include wearing fish-net panties. (Not that I'm saying that it should, but I wouldn't wear them down to the car wash, if you know what I mean.) Perhaps she is in for just a bit of a comeuppance?

On the surface you seem to have created yet another book where women who flaunt their sexuality are horribly murdered. (Even Glorie, who is not conventionally beautiful by any means, wears what most would label "skimpy" clothing and is portrayed as a sex object, at least in Tommy's mind.) This is the oldest trick in the book, (and most men (and some women) do it unconsciously. I think you are doing it consciously. Just watch out for those gratuitously badly dressed women.

Three things before I go:

1. Great coloring.
2. Great lettering (The CHUNG! CHUNG! running through the first section was reminiscent of Ken Kesey at his best.)
3. Page...uh...hey put in page #'s for cripes sake...Page 18, panel 4...I hurt, Tommy. This is a classic Claremontism, and no one is allowed to use it anymore, so watch it, okay?

Heidi McDonald
Somewhere in L.A.

Thanx, Heidi - I can use the help! We'll watch our P's and Q's and work on it. You know, we need some more feedback on the stories. Are they sexist? Exploitational? Write ASAP!

- Later



KALLING ALL KIETH KOLLECTORS!

...And you know who you are! Before snappy Sam rocketed to superstardom with *The Maxx*, before he turned heads with his work on *Wolverine*, before even *Sandman*, he created hundreds of pages' worth of wild 'n' woolly stuff for small-press and alternative comics. *I Before E* collects Sam's early, obscure horror, sci-fi, and humor work, in two issues totaling over 100 pages of comics and artwork, including the very earliest incarnation of *The Maxx*, and featuring an intro by *Maxx* scribe Bill Messner-Loeb! Each issue is available for \$5.50 postpaid, or both for \$10.00! Send check or money order to Fantagraphics Books, 7563 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 and allow four to six weeks for delivery of your comics. NOTE: Since Sam's earliest work could be a little raunchy, we must ask that you be 18 YEARS OR OLDER to order, and include an age statement!